



Bulgaria and Vera's Home

May 2024

(Volume 163)





A family souvenir Above Sophia in May 2024, visting Vera and family in Patalenitsa (her village) Sophia for 2 nights and then for one night in Plovdiv.

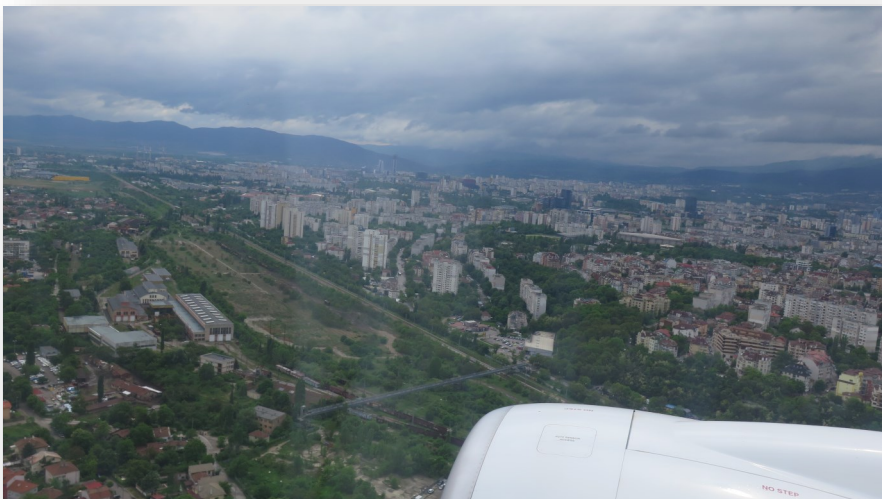




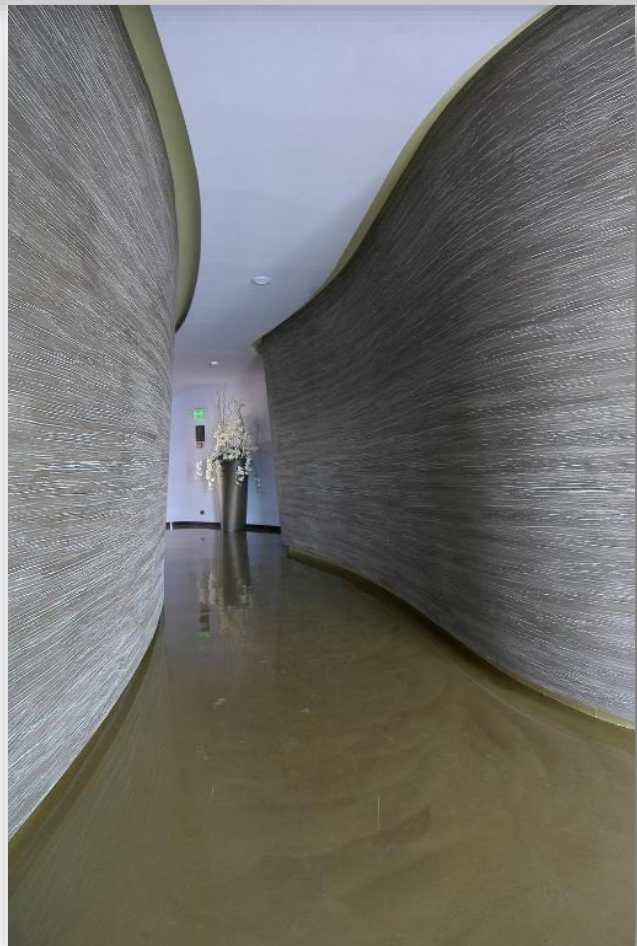


Photo History



Hotel Les Fleurs is situated on Vitosha Boulevard, the main shopping street in Sofia's centre,

The design of the corridors and rooms were really well thought out and it was absolutely central





The modern station on the new tube line linking Sophia city to Sophia airport

Monument of Culture

The Sofia Synagogue

The Sofia synagogue is the largest Sephardic synagogue in Europe and one of the most beautiful architectural monuments. There is a commemorative tablet in the synagogue on the occasion of its sanctification, which took place on 9 September 1909 in the presence of the Tsar's family.

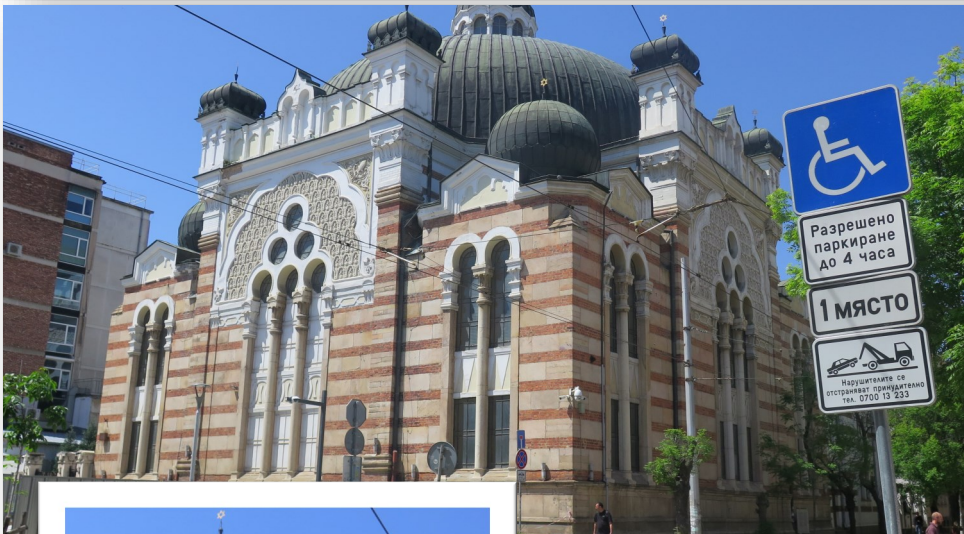
Architecture

The style is the so-called Bulgarian National Romanticism. The project was the work of the Austrian architect F. Grunanger. The church constitutes a central dome building with a narthex. The plan is rectangular. The chapel is octagonal, with four conchi in the oblique angles and rectangular premises between them. They are separated from the hall by arcades, and over them is a department for women. Remarkable is the main chandelier, weighing two tons, the largest one in Bulgaria.

The altar is on a podium made of white marble, with an exquisite parapet. The hall seats 1170 people. It is covered with an octagonal dome with a lantern (20 m in diameter and a total height of 31 m). It forms a stylistic unity with the four smaller domes on the conchi and the eight small towers with dome-like coverings. The facades are richly decorated with architectural details, plastic ornaments and stone carvings, and the interior with works of applied arts.

Pictorial arts

The floor of the synagogue is covered with a Venetian polychrome mosaic, the walls are ornamented; there is a museum collection representing the history and the culture of the Jewish community in Sofia an Bulgaria.



St George Rotunda

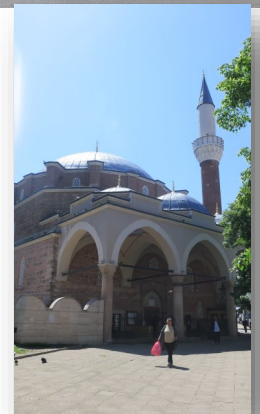
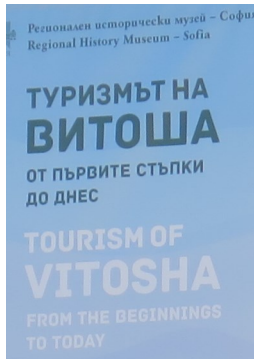




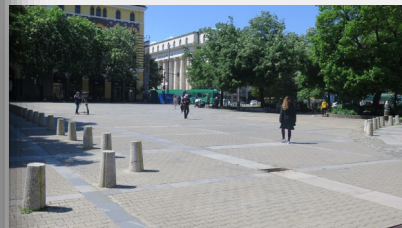
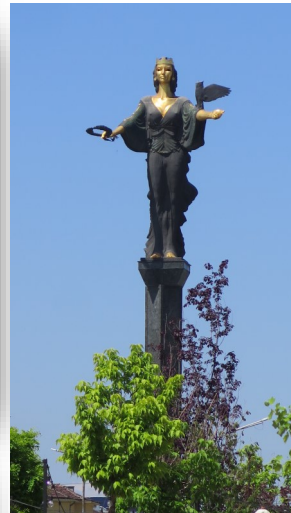
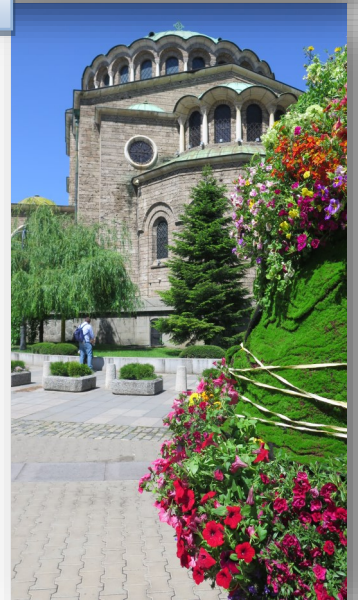
Photo History

Around Sophia



President's Office

Sophia History Museum



St Nedelya Church

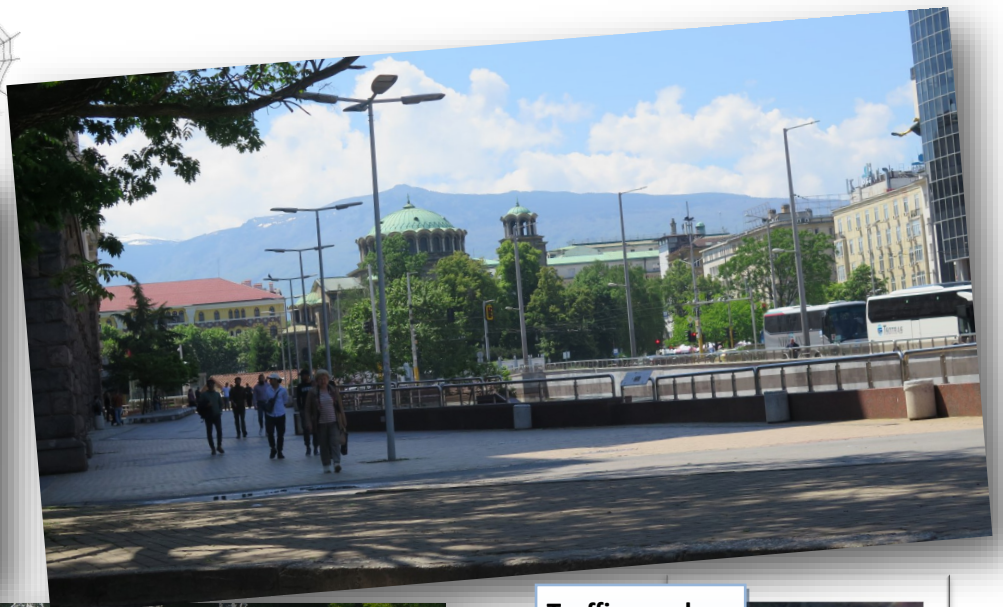




Photo History







Traffic wardens
are recruited
very young in
Sophia

The pedestrian-
ised streets of
Sophia with
the hills in the
background
and the park
with fountains



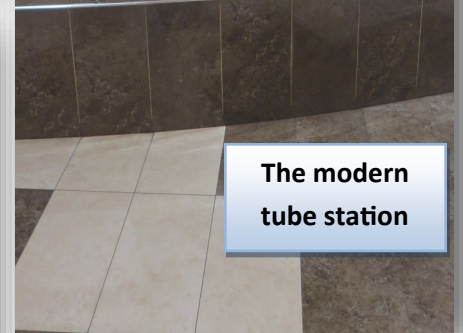




The 2.5 hour train journey from the modern tube then onto an older train passing through the Sophia suburbs and the countryside and eventually wooded areas with mining and logging industries. Vera met us at Pazardgik station and they drove us approx. 15 minutes to Patalenitsa, her village to meet her family



Old house seen from the train



The modern tube station



Vera's home

Traditional folk group that provided entertainment at the lamb bbq





The grape
vine wood



My 'Turn'

The local annual Easter St. George's day lamb spit roast. The grape vine wood is lit at around 2.00am and when it turns to ash by around 7.00am the spit s are all place in position with locals at the ends turning slowly while they chat. I also was allowed to take my turn (Literally!) There was one concession to the 21st century...an electric motor. They cooked slowly and were ready to be enjoyed around 3.00pm





Vera walked with us a few streets away from her home and going through a wooden gate we saw this old traditional church. The story behind it is totally fascinating..The church of St. Demetrius, is one of the most important medieval cultural monuments, lies in the village of Patalenitsa, located at the foot of the Rhodope Mountains. The temple remained buried in the ground for five centuries and avoided desecration by the Ottoman invaders. This is why some frescoes typical of the Renaissance period are well preserved. The legend has it that the church was discovered accidentally in the 19th century by a local shepherd who saw the top of a metal cross protruding from the hill after a heavy storm. Thus, the local legend, according to which a Christian temple was buried under the small mound, was confirmed. In 1870, the church was named after Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki.





The hidden situation and the icons that were discovered made this a totally unique' find'





Photo History

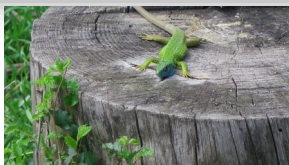
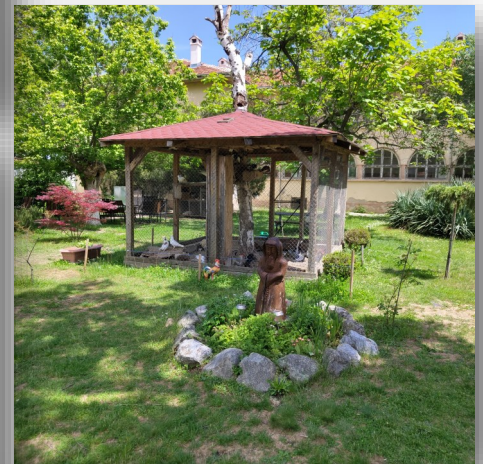




Photo History



A special display for us by the resident peacock



High above Vera's house was the abandoned Batkun monastery. It became a sanatorium after the monks departed and then, as people were cared for in hospitals, it was no longer used. The grounds were well tended with caged peacocks, rabbits etc and there was a delightful ornate small church there . It was beautifully situated





Their parents bought them to this delightful setting in traditional costume as it was the Bulgarian Easter and they were so happy





The small church with its solid door and very ornate decoration





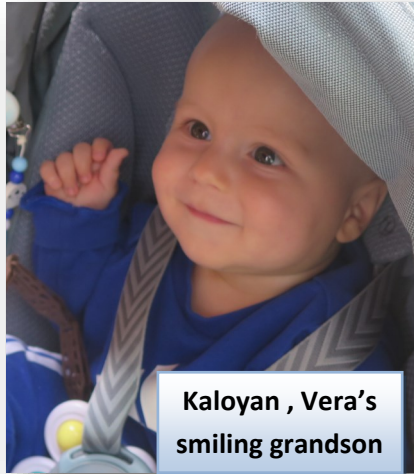
Abandoned farm machinery
with its sleepy guard and a
less sleepy guard looking
after his flock "Don't mess
with Me"



Photo History



In their garden



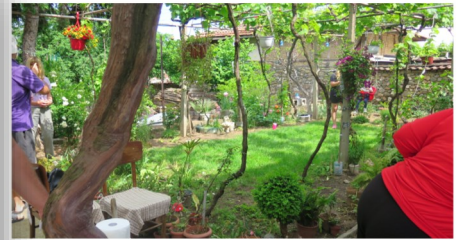
Kaloyan , Vera's
smiling grandson



AT Vera's home in Patalenitsa



Twenty of us enjoyed
the feast under the
grape vines



Setting the table



Mum and Dad and
Kaloyan



The lamb spit
roasted



Picking cherries



Vera's daughter's new house almost finished (at the end of the village)

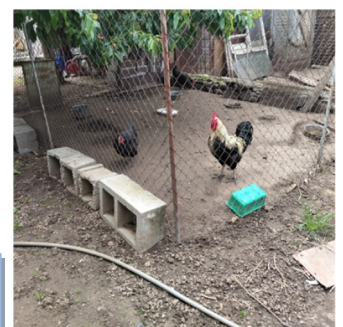
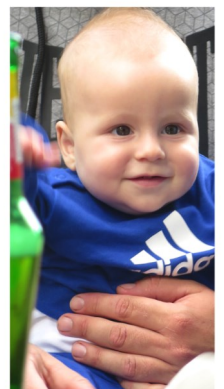
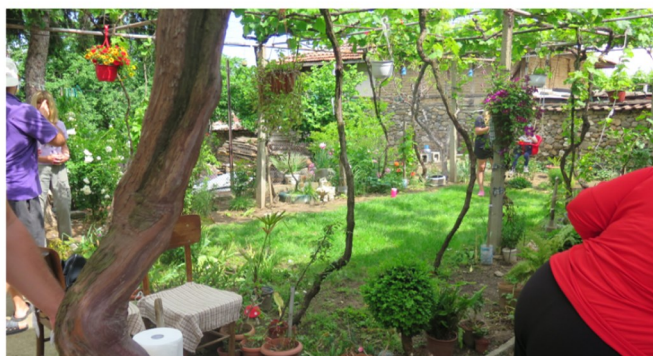


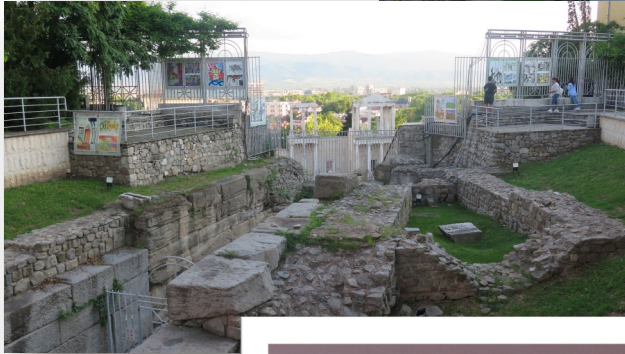


Photo History



Around Vera's home





ANCIENT THEATRE OF PHILIPPOPOL

Like all major cities within the Roman Empire, Philippopolis also had its own theatre. It was built in the 1st century, during the reign of Emperor Domitian. A testimony to this is an inscription found under the statue of Titus Flavius Cotis, the first person in charge of Philippopolis, an aristocrat and heir of the Thracian Royal Dynasty.



Old Plovdiv



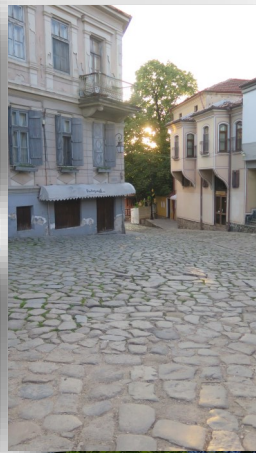
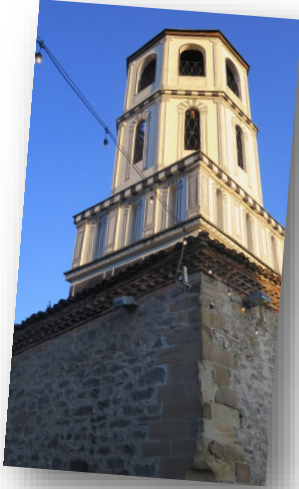
Much of the historic old city
is buried , but accessible







Photo History



Around Plovdiv

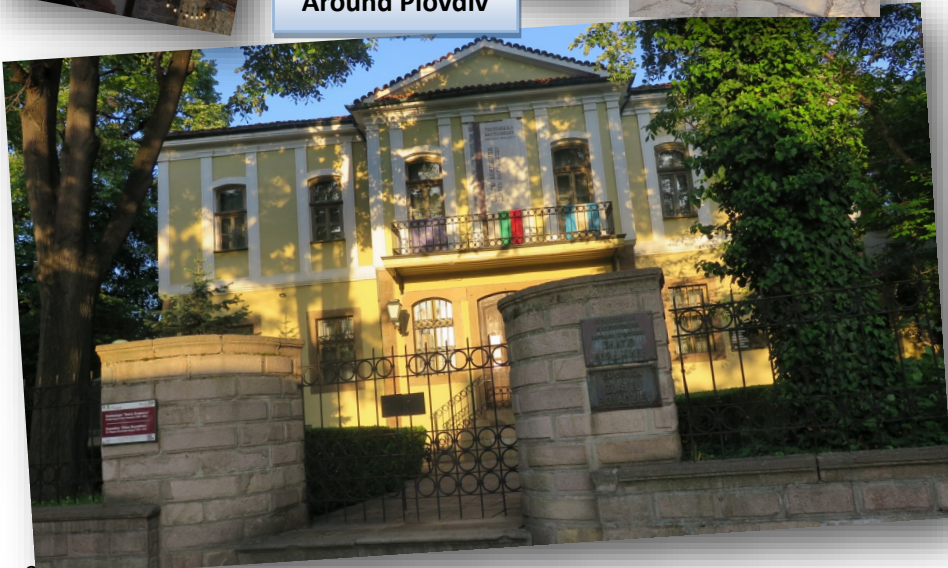
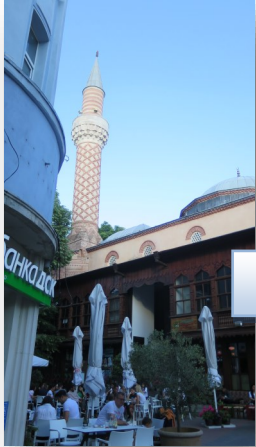
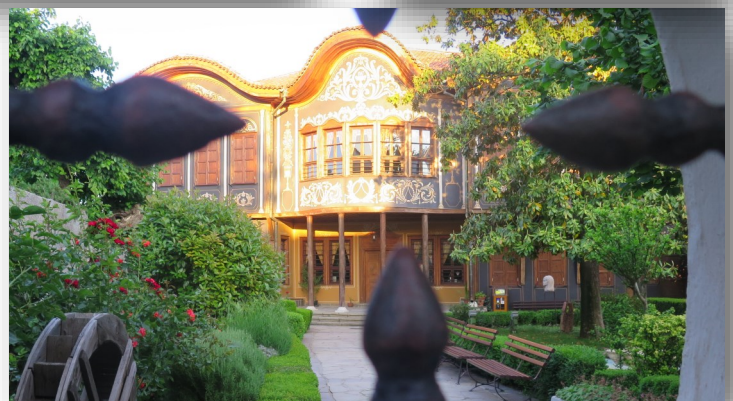
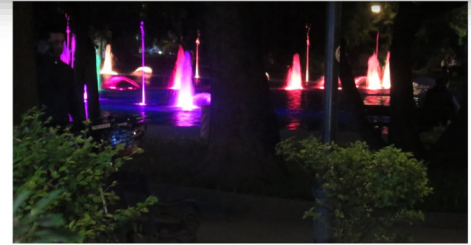
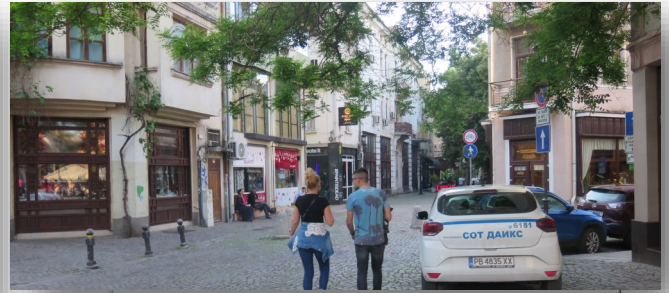




Photo History



Around Plovdiv





The Many Faces
of Plovdiv

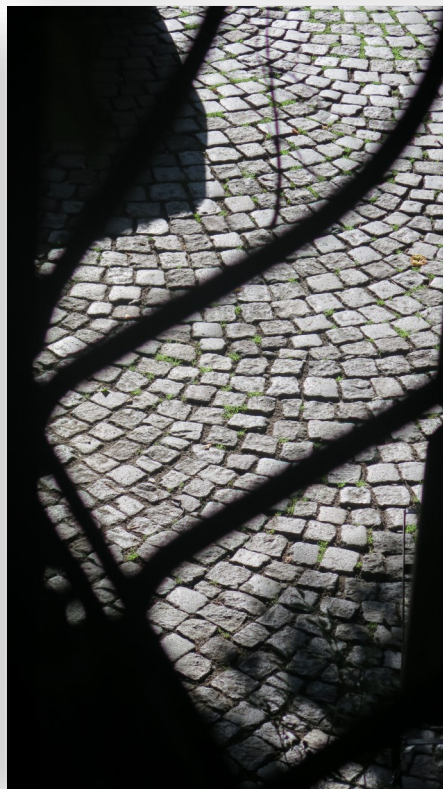
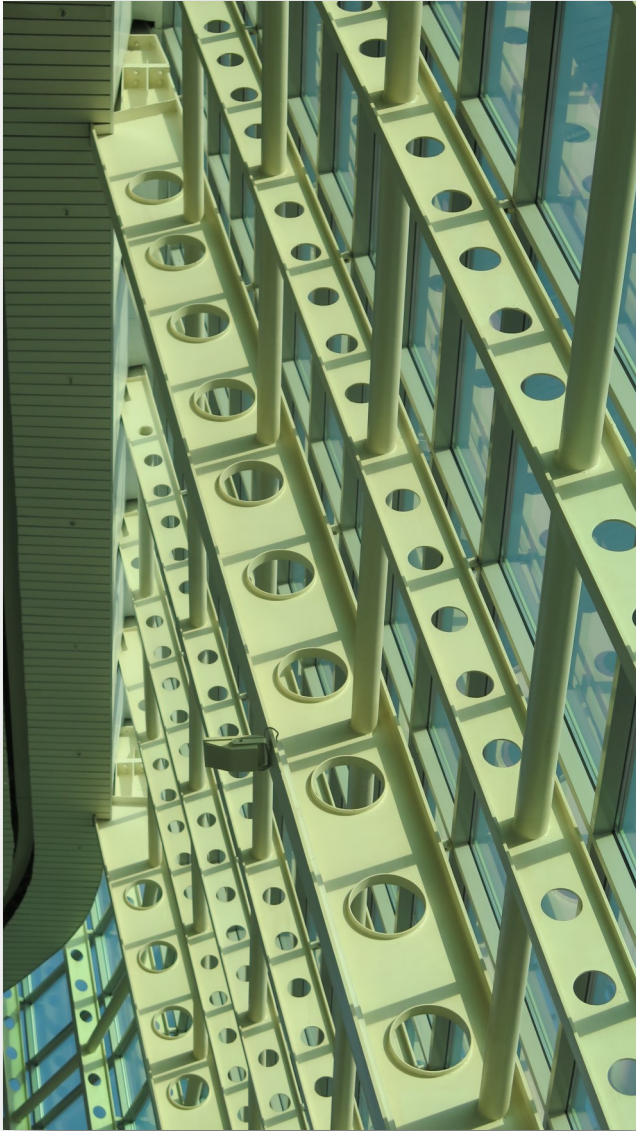
plovdiv2019
EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF
CULTURE







Photo History







The old Roman City lays buried beneath the modern city

